Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, William Joseph Ortmeier was born on March 10, 1922, and Katherine Bell Abernathy was born on February 22, 1922; and,

Whereas, Bill and Kay met while attending the Polo School in Hand County and after developing a deep love for each other, committed themselves in marriage before God, family, and friends on June 5, 1944; and,

Whereas, Bill and Kay built their life together as they farmed in Ontario Township until 1976, giving life and love to nine children: Judi, Mary, Bob, Ken, Gloria, Joe, CamMay, Dianne, and Bill, and have also been blessed with 26 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren; and,

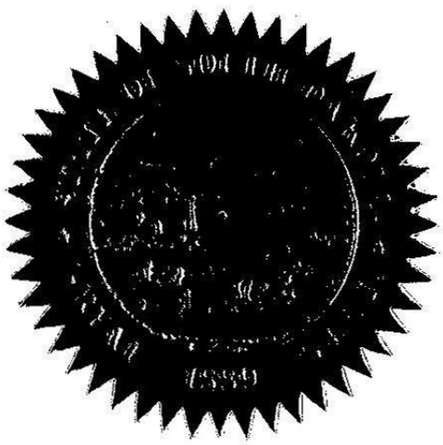
Whereas, In 1981, Bill and Kay moved to Watertown, South Dakota, where they currently reside; and,

Whereas, Their family will come together on July 4, 2004, to honor and celebrate 60 years of marriage of a devoted couple who have shared life's beauty and sorrow and have grown to love one another more because of their common journey:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 5, 2004, as

BILL & KAY ORTMEIER DAY

in South Dakota, and I join with the honored couple's family and friends in wishing them continued health and happiness in a state that stands prouder today because of their contributions and commitment.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourteenth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State